

A Plea to Oust School Superintendent *Integration* *Fight Against Gross*

"JANSEN (William) was like a mule. He would honestly tell you what he meant. He moved on integration only when so much pressure built up that he could no longer resist it."

"THEOBALD (John J.) was shifty and non-committal with no sense of inner direction. He wouldn't take a firm position on integration."

"GROSS (Calvin E.) is not so obstinate as Jansen or shifty as Theobald, but he is absolutely unreliable. He cannot be taken at his word."

"DONOVAN (James B.) is honest. He is against integration and he tells you so."

The Rev. Milton A. Galamison yesterday.

By Joseph Michalak
of The Herald Tribune Staff

Dr. Calvin E. Gross is "an out-and-out liar," and Negro groups throughout the city will be asked to unite to bring about his ouster as Superintendent of Schools.

So said the leader of the Citywide Committee for Integrated Schools yesterday.

The Rev. Milton A. Galamison, who was among 25 persons arrested for a sit-in at Board of Education headquarters Monday, said he would recommend that the five organizations composing the committee lead the effort against Dr. Gross. He said the matter will be taken up at a meeting

the same time, the Brooklyn chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), an affiliate of the committee, called for the "immediate removal" of Dr. Gross and the entire nine-man Board of Education.

Mr. Galamison said he would urge no action "at this time" against the board as a whole, but that if he did, his "No. 1 target" would be James B. Donovan, board president.

He charged that Mr. Donovan is "against integration" and has "contributed to the confusion on the issue because he says he is for integration but is opposed to bussing." Mr. Galamison repeated that transporting youngsters by bus into other districts was "the only sure means of bringing about the full integration of the school system."

THE CHARGES

In Albany State Education Commissioner James E. Allen defended Dr. Gross and the board for their integration efforts.

"I believe the board's recent interim report is further

evidence of this commitment and determination" to achieve integration at the earliest possible date within the limits permitted by feasibility and sound educational practice," he said.

Mr. Galamison based his "liar" charge on the same interim report by Dr. Gross that Dr. Allen commended. It was issued last week as follow-up to an agreement between the board and the Citywide Committee that headed off a threatened Negro boycott in September.

"Dr. Gross publicly committed himself before the Human Rights Commission [the mediator of the argument] and our group to bring about integration in every school district in the city by next September. He has not attempted to meet this commitment.

"He is absolutely unreliable," Mr. Galamison said. "We don't need anyone of that kind at the head of our school system."

THE REPLIES

Mr. Galamison did not let his case rest with Dr. Gross. He charged that the two former superintendents had not done "anything substantive" to help achieve integration. Dr. William Jansen, superintendent from 1947 to 1958, was "obstinate" on the issue, he said, and Dr. John J. Theobald, superintendent from 1958 to 1962, was "shifty" and "non-committal."

Dr. Gross would not comment on any call for his removal or on any of Mr. Galamison's charges.

Dr. Jansen admitted that he had been "obstinate," but only "when coming to do what was honest and practical." He noted that before he finished his term he had been honored by Negroes in Brooklyn for "my fairness."

"Mr. Galamison was the preacher at the function at which I was honored," he added.

Dr. Theobald was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Donovan said the charge that he was "against integration" was "baseless and irresponsible."

He said the Citywide Committee had produced "no concrete program" in conferences with the board before Dr. Gross' interim report.

Asked about the specific details favored by the Citywide Committee, Mr. Galamison cited the Princeton Plan as "the plan of first preference." Under this plan, children attend schools on the basis of grade rather than neighborhood.